

REMARKS

The Amendments

The amendment to the specification addresses the objection thereto by making an obvious clarification. The amendment to claim 12 incorporates the recitations of claims 20 and 21, alternatively, which allows removal of the rejected proviso. The amendments to claims 33, 35 and 37 address the new 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection.

It is submitted that the above amendments would put the application in condition for allowance or materially reduce or simplify the issues for appeal. It would appear that the amendments direct the claims to allowable subject matter since claims 20 and 21 were not subject to the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection and the other objection/rejections are rendered moot by the amendments. The amendments do not raise new issues or present new matter since they merely correct obvious informal issues and incorporate dependent claim recitations into the independent claims. No additional claims are presented. The amendments have been made to address the new grounds of rejection and, thus, they were not earlier presented. Accordingly, it is submitted that the requested amendments should be entered.

Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing and/or divisional applications directed to any subject matter disclosed in the application which has been canceled by any of the above amendments.

The Objection to the Specification

The specification is amended to address the objection. From the context of the amended paragraphs, it is believed to be evident that the units for the numbers recited at the end are parts, which merely reiterates what is already recited in those paragraphs regarding these three components.

The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

The rejection of claims 12-41 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is rendered moot by the removal of the alleged negative limitation from claims 12-14. With the previous dependent claim recitation incorporated into claim 12, such recitation is no longer necessary.

The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The rejection of claims 33, 35 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is rendered moot by the amendments thereto providing the language suggested in the Office Action.

The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claims 12-14, 19, 22, 27, 30, 32, 34, 36 and 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. §103, as being obvious over Kato (U.S. Patent No. 6,605,655) is believed to be rendered moot by the above amendments. The rejection was not directed to claim 20 or 21 and the sole independent claim now incorporates, alternatively, the recitations of those claims. Thus, the rejection should be withdrawn.

It is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. But the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any unresolved matters.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

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